



Weather Stations Online

Remote Automated Weather Stations at National Parks in Southwest Alaska

Weather and climate information from remote areas of Alaska is scarce. Most weather stations are near towns and villages. A few additional weather stations support the safety and needs of the aviation community. The National Park Service established a network of remote automated weather stations (RAWS) at national parks in southwest Alaska. The objective is to record and archive weather observations at representative locations. This effort supports real-time needs, detects natural variability in weather and long-term climate trends, provides reliable climate data to researchers, and adds to the understanding of ecosystem changes.



Hickerson Lake weather station (to be removed in 2014) and Iliamna Volcano, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

These weather stations are fully automated and are powered by solar panels. Data is transmitted hourly to a weather satellite and is available online. Weather observations include temperature, wind speed and direction, precipitation, snow depth, relative humidity, and solar radiation.

This newsletter summarizes how to access current and historic weather observations from 12 weather stations at three national parks in southwest Alaska - Katmai National Park and Preserve, Kenai Fjords National Park, and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

Current weather observations and summary reports can be viewed at the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) website:

www.raws.dri.edu/akF.html

An interactive map and list of weather stations in Alaska provides access to data from individual stations. Select the desired weather station by name or map location (see map and description on next page for weather station locations and names).

Current conditions can be viewed by selecting **Daily Summary** and entering the current date. Conditions for the last week are accessed by selecting **Graph of last 7 days**. A monthly summary is generated by selecting **Monthly Summary** and entering the desired



Precipitation gauge at Harding Icefield weather station, Kenai Fjords National Park.

month. Graphs can also be created for any period of interest by selecting **Time Series Graph**, entering the time period, and selecting the available elements. Wind data is best viewed using the **Wind Rose Graph and Tables** option.

Tabular data for the last 30 days can be downloaded from the WRCC website by using the **Data Lister**. The complete data set is archived and is available by contacting the Southwest Alaska Network.

Current weather observations are also available from the Alaska Ocean Observing System website:

<http://data.aos.org/maps/sensors>



Southwest Alaska Network

Inventory and Monitoring Program

The Southwest Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network (SWAN) is an office of the National Park Service dedicated to providing the scientific foundation for effective, long-term protection and management of natural resources in five units of the national park system. Collectively, these units comprise approximately 9.4 million acres, 11.6 percent of the land managed by the National Park Service, or 2 percent of the Alaskan landmass, and include a diversity of geologic features, ecosystems, fish, wildlife, and climatic conditions that are equaled few places in North America

Southwest Alaska Network

Inventory and Monitoring Program

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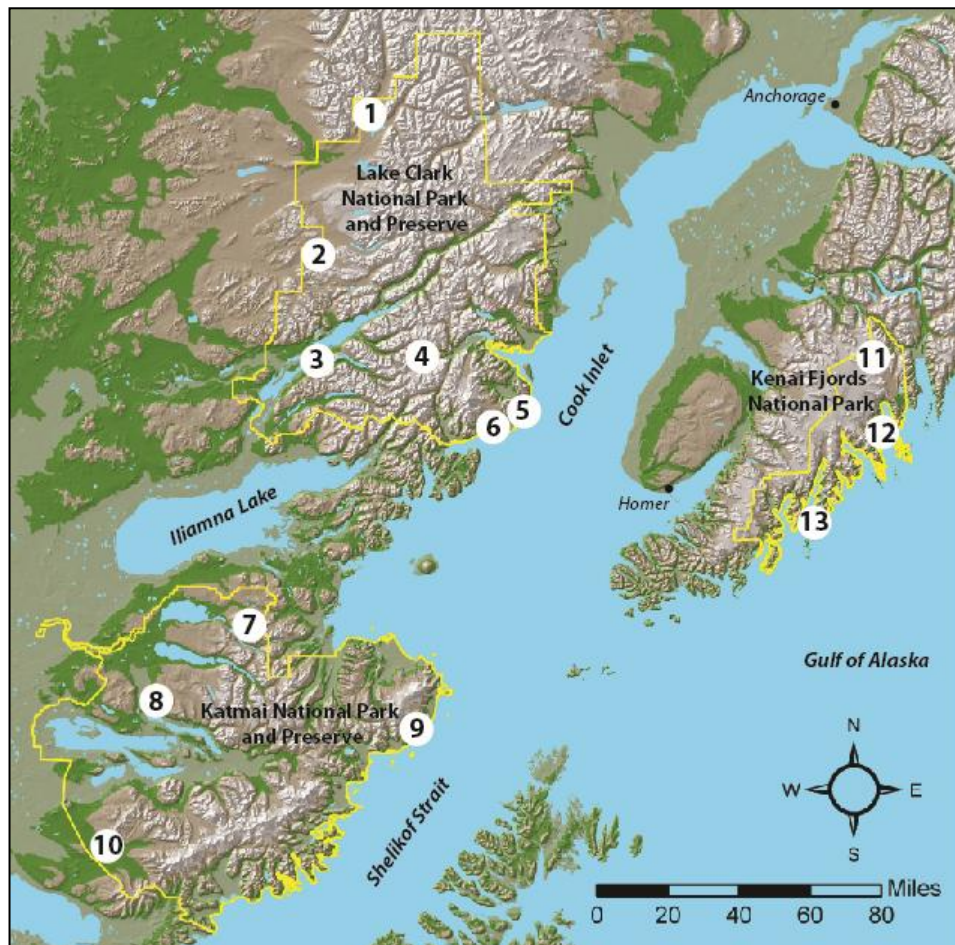
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Locations and names of remote automated weather stations at national parks in SW Alaska: 1) Stoney, 2) Snipe Lake, 3) Port Alsworth, 4) Chigmit Mountains, 5) Silver Salmon Lakes, 6) Hickerson Lake (to be removed 2014), 7) Pfaff Mine, 8) Coville, 9) Fourpeaked, 10) Contact Creek (to be removed 2013), 11) Harding Icefield, 12) Pedersen Lagoon, 13) McArthur Pass.



McArthur Pass weather station, NW Gulf of Alaska coast, Kenai Fjords National Park.



Fine-tuning the Coville Lake weather station, interior Katmai National Park and Preserve.